

2017

RUTH MILNER, District Wildlife Biologist
TOM CYRA, Assistant District Wildlife Biologist



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



2017 DISTRICT 13 HUNTING PROSPECTS

Snohomish, San Juan, and Island counties; Skagit County
Islands

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DISTRICT 13 GENERAL OVERVIEW	1
Snohomish County.....	2
ELK	4
DEER.....	4
Black-tailed Deer GMU 448.....	4
Black-tailed Deer Island Units.....	6
GMUs 410-419	7
GMU 420 (Whidbey Island) & 421 (Camano Island).....	8
BEAR	8
COUGAR	9
MOUNTAIN GOAT	9
PHEASANT	10
BAND-TAILED PIGEON.....	12
GROUSE	12
WATERFOWL.....	12
Snohomish County.....	12
Port Susan Bay.....	14
Whidbey Island.....	15
Camano Island	15

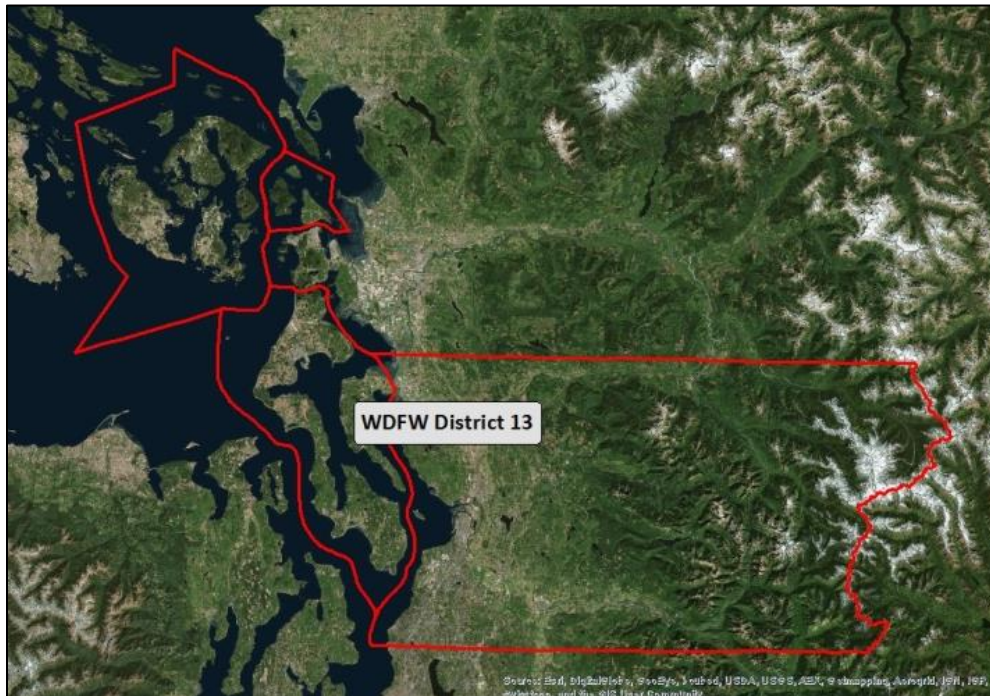
DISTRICT 13 GENERAL OVERVIEW

District 13 contains all of Snohomish, Island, and San Juan counties, along with the islands of Skagit County. This includes Game Management Unit (GMU) 448 (Stillaguamish), the southern section of GMU 450 (Cascade), and the southern section of GMU 407 (North Sound) in Snohomish County. The islands of the San Juan Archipelago and Island County are divided into several GMUs, including GMU 410 (Islands), 411 (Orcas), 412 (Shaw), 413 (San Juan), 414 (Lopez), 415 (Blakely), 416 (Decatur), 417 (Cypress), 419 (Guemes), 420 (Whidbey) and 421(Camano).

Weather predictions for the coming fall call for continued warm, dry weather. Hunters will want to pay close attention to all rules on public lands and watch for any closures that might be implemented at the last minute if fire dangers get too high.

Remember to be a good hunting and outdoor recreation steward. Be respectful of others. Don't hunt areas where there is heavy, regular recreation use. Please pick up after yourself and don't leave a gut pile out in the open – cover/bury or hike it out and dispose of properly.

Annual harvest reports and harvest statistics based on hunter reporting for various species and Game Management Units can be found at [Game Harvest Reports](#).



Map of District 13 in Washington State

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

In Snohomish County, a great tool for determining property ownership and boundaries can be found online at SCOPI, which is a mapping tool provided by the [County Assessor's office](#).

Much of the eastern portion of District 13 is public land managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Two USFS Ranger Districts will have information on road and trail conditions for GMUs 448 and 450: the Darrington Ranger District (360-436-1155 – north county) and the Skykomish Ranger District (360-677-2414 – south county). Many roads have been decommissioned or damaged by floods in recent years. Trail conditions also vary, and information on specific trails, as well as many useful maps, can be found at the [Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Recreation web page](#).

The remaining public land open for hunting in Snohomish County is managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Northwest Region (360-856-3500). Hunters should be aware that many access roads to DNR lands are gated, and they should contact DNR to obtain the latest information about gates, available access routes, and road conditions. DNR ownership at Ebey Hill near the Jim Creek Naval Station is entirely surrounded by private property, and therefore for all practical purposes it is not accessible to the general public. Additional contact information is found on the [DNR Recreation](#) web page. Hot and dry summer conditions have resulted in some camp fire restrictions on state-owned lands. Contact DNR or USFS for updated fire information.

A number of private industrial timberland owners also manage land in GMU 448 (Stillaguamish). Many of their roads are closed to motorized vehicle traffic, but some allow free walking or biking access. Hunters are advised to scout their areas early and be aware that parking at access gates may be very limited. Gates should never be blocked. Hunters are also advised not to drive beyond any open gate unless they are certain the gate will remain open on their return. Active logging is taking place in some areas, so gates may be open in the morning, but closed and locked later in the day. Some access gates on private industrial timber lands will have signs that specify ownership and the rules that apply to the property. Hunters should strictly observe No Parking signs, as local landowners will tow vehicles found on their property.

Beginning in 2016, Weyerhaeuser Corporation began charging for access through individual permit sales. Walk-in and drive-in permits are sold through their [recreational website](#). Maps of their ownership will also be found at this website.

Early scouting is always important, particularly in District 13. If fire danger is extraordinarily high, access may be closed to the public for all activities. If this happens, notices may be posted at property gates.



Typical no parking/no trespassing signs in rural areas of District 13

Much of the Snohomish County portion of GMU 407 (North Sound) is dominated by homes on small acreages or relatively small farms. Hunters should obtain permission from landowners to hunt on private land and should be very mindful of where houses, livestock, and outbuildings are situated in relation to the areas where hunting will take place. Portions of the GMU are under firearm restrictions. Hunters should research landownership and understand firearm limitations prior to hunting. A map showing no shooting areas and shotgun only areas within Snohomish County is [online](#).

SAN JUAN AND ISLAND COUNTIES

Very little public land exists within either San Juan or Island counties and firearm restrictions are in place in each jurisdiction. Ownership maps for San Juan County are available through the county assessor's office: <http://www.sanjuanco.com/150/Parcel-Search-and-Maps> and <https://sjcgis.org/PolarisJS/>. Hunting within San Juan County requires written permission from the landowner, by county ordinance.

In the San Juan Archipelago, access to islands not served by the Washington State Department of Transportation ferry system is by private boat or commercial water taxi. Private boat owners should check in advance regarding ownership and rules that may apply to docks and landings within the San Juan Archipelago, as most are privately owned. San Juan County owns and maintains eight docks with floats and eight boat ramps, and leases two outer island moorage docks. During winter months, Madrona Point, Eastsound, Orcas Island marine facility will be closed November 1 - April 1. The San Juan County Public Works Department provides a variety of road and dock maps here: <http://wa-sanjuancounty.civicplus.com/290/Map-Gallery>.

Ownership maps for Island County are available through the Island County assessor's office: <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/assessors/Pages/Parcel-Search.aspx>.

ELK

District 13 does not have an established elk herd within GMU 448 (Stillaguamish) or GMU 450 (Cascade) boundaries. Small bands occur infrequently along Highway 2 at the south end of GMU 448. These groups typically range between the towns of Baring and Grotto, but occasionally move west as far as Sultan.

Elk also sometimes come south of GMU 437 (Sauk) onto the Sauk Prairie and areas west of Darrington and east of Highway 9 in the north end of GMU 448. Their presence is occasional and unpredictable.

No elk were harvested from GMU 448 in 2016, and only 36 hunters reported hunting the unit. Hunters planning to hunt in GMU 448 should plan on careful scouting and be aware that elk in the unit are presumed to be tied to the Nooksack groups to the north and the North Bend groups to the south, and are thus only present sporadically in GMU 448.

GMU 450 is currently not open for elk hunting, although small groups may spend some time at the higher elevations found in the GMU. Opening GMU 450 for elk hunting is under consideration for 2018.

DEER

BLACK-TAILED DEER GMU 448

District 13 includes GMU 448 (Stillaguamish) and portions of GMU 450 (Cascade) and 407 (North Sound). In 2016, 1,124 hunters reported hunting during the general deer seasons in GMU 448. They had a 25 percent success rate and harvested 257 animals. Among the 10 late buck permit hunters, nine hunters reported, of which six said they hunted, and two deer were taken. Hunters who take the time to scout and learn the area will increase their likelihood of success. We strongly encourage planning and familiarization with local conditions well in advance of hunting season.

Much of GMU 448 is forested, with trees in a 30-60-year age class on federal public lands. This results in relatively tightly stocked stands where seeing deer may be challenging. On private timberlands and some DNR properties, clear cutting has produced forest openings. However, food may be limited in clear cuts, so deer may be harder to find than anticipated. For hunters who enjoy walking or hiking in uncrowded conditions, GMU 448 offers a very rewarding opportunity to get outside and enjoy the season.

Parking and walk-in access to DNR and private forest land is available at the intersection of Menzel Lake Road and the P-5000 Road. This gate is located 4.6 miles south of the intersection of Alder Place and Menzel Lake Road in Granite Falls. Parking at other gated access areas in this general area may be limited. Hunters need to obey No Parking signs when they encounter them, as these signs indicate private property and owners may tow vehicles found on their property.



P-5000 Road access gate

At the south end of GMU 448, walk-in access is available off the Sultan Basin Road. This area has mixed public and private ownership, and hunters should pay close attention to signs designating areas where discharge of firearms is prohibited. Access to DNR lands requires a Discover Pass, and these areas will have signage. DNR properties are gated, and shooting is permitted only during legal hunting seasons.

Vehicle access is available on USFS roads around Snohomish County, but hunters should consult the USFS website for current information on road conditions and closures.



Typical DNR signs

GMU 450 boundaries include portions of Districts 13 and 14. Sixty-two hunters reported harvesting 20 deer from the unit. GMU 407 includes portions of Districts 12, 13, and 14. In 2016, 2,076 hunters harvested 315 deer from GMU 407. Most of the unit is private land and some areas are firearm restricted. In Snohomish County, hunters should consult page 88 of Washington's 2017 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations and the county map showing no

shooting areas and shotgun only areas (<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1949/Sheriffs-Office>) for information on restrictions.

BLACK-TAILED DEER ISLAND UNITS

Beginning in 2013, GMU 410, which included all of the islands in San Juan and Island counties, was divided into several distinct new units assigned to individual islands. This change is intended to provide more accurate harvest information and assist with the development of management strategies for the individual islands. GMU 410 is now comprised of those remaining islands that were not assigned a specific number. No islands in GMU 410 are accessible by ferry, and none provide publicly owned lands that are open to hunting. Several do not contain deer. The correct GMU numbers for each individual island are as follows:

GMU 411	Orcas island	GMU 412	Shaw Island
GMU 413	San Juan Island	GMU 414	Lopez Island
GMU 415	Blakely Island	GMU 416	Decatur Island
GMU 417	Cypress Island	GMU 420	Whidbey Island
GMU 419	Guemes Island	GMU 421	Camano Island

We continue to have high numbers of hunters reporting they hunted in GMU 410. In 2016, 445 hunters said they hunted in GMU 410 and harvested 309 deer. These numbers are highly doubtful and until island hunters accurately report the GMU in which they hunted, we are unable to make accurate harvest estimates for any island. We ask that hunters pay close attention to the GMU they hunt and report accurately so we can improve our understanding of harvest on each island.



Photo by Doug Harms

GMUS 410-419

Public access on islands within the San Juan Archipelago (San Juan and Skagit counties) is extremely limited. Deer in the islands are plentiful, but typically smaller than their mainland cousins. Most hunting occurs on private property. In San Juan County, by county ordinance, written landowner permission is required in order to hunt on private property.

Small parcels of public land are open to hunting on Lopez Island (GMU 414) and Stuart Island (GMU 410) on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within the San Juan Islands National Monument. Hunters should call Nick Teague (360) 468-3754 or Marcia deChadenedes (360) 468-3051 for information. Additional information is available [online](#).

The San Juan County Land Bank manages Lopez Hill, which continues to allow limited hunting. Lopez Hill will be open for hunting from September 1 through October 31. More information can be found here: <https://lopezhill.org/directions-and-maps/> and here: http://sjclandbank.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/LopezHill_map_REVISED_4_2016.pdf. Questions can be sent to timc@sjclandbank.org.

Overnight camping is not allowed in the National Monument or on Lopez Hill. Please check [Washington State Parks](#) and [San Juan County Parks](#) for camping information.

Cypress Island (GMU 417) is largely owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), but some parcels are privately owned. Hunting is permitted on the DNR ownership. Maps, trails, and access rules can be found [online](#).

GMU 420 (WHIDBEY ISLAND) & 421 (CAMANO ISLAND)

Deer are abundant, however, very little public land is available for hunting on either Whidbey or Camano islands. Hunters should obtain permission from landowners prior to hunting on private property. [The Island County Public Works Department](#) owns a few small parcels that comprise the majority of public hunting lands on Whidbey and Camano islands. Hunters should contact them directly for maps and restrictions at (360) 679-7331.

Limited deer hunting will also be allowed on the Trillium Community Forest property, owned by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust. Hunters should contact the [Whidbey Camano Land Trust](#) for additional information regarding access dates, maps, and more. Hunting on this property is for the purpose of habitat improvement, thus hunting is limited to a few specific days during deer season.

Deer hunting at Naval Air Station Whidbey (WNAS) is open for archery only to military personnel and their guests. All hunters (military and civilian) need to purchase the installation hunting permit (\$13). This is the required authorization for access and to carry a firearm. Deer hunting areas are accessed by entering the Sea Plan Base (SPB) gate, and non-military guests must be in the same vehicle as the military hunter. For additional information, contact WNAS Biologist Michael Bianchi at (360) 257-4024.

BEAR

The 2016/2017 winter snow pack exceeded average depths. In fall, bears typically key into huckleberry fields as a primary food source and move to lower elevations as weather cools or snow arrives. This year, berries will likely be plentiful but may be patchily distributed. Thus, bears may stay at higher elevations in search of high calorie berries in the fall but may move often as they search for food. About 9 percent of hunters in GMUs 448 and 6 percent of hunters in GMU 407 were successful last year, taking 49 animals from GMU 448 and 20 from GMU 407. Ten percent of hunters were successful in GMU 450, with five bears harvested.

2018 Spring Black Bear Special Permit Hunts will be announced in November 2017. In Region 4, spring hunts are initiated to help timber land managers alleviate tree damage caused by bears peeling tree bark. Tree damage has declined in the Monroe area north of State Highway 2. Therefore, we do not anticipate offering a Special Permit Hunt in that area in 2018.

There are no bears in GMU 410. This is an error in the regulations that will be corrected in 2018. There are no bears in any of the islands within District 13 and all units except GMU 410 are closed to bear hunting.

COUGAR

GMUs 448 and 450 are hunt areas with a harvest guideline of 9-13 animals. In these GMUs, the Director may close the cougar late hunting season after January 1 if cougar harvest meets or exceeds the guideline. Cougar hunters may hunt from January 1 until the hunt area harvest guideline has been reached and the GMU is closed by the Director, or until April 30, whichever occurs first. It is each cougar hunter's responsibility to verify if the cougar late hunting season is open or closed in GMUs 448 and 450. Cougar hunters can verify if the season is open or closed by calling the toll free cougar hunting hotline at 1-866-364-4868 or visiting the [website](#). The hotline and website will be updated weekly beginning January 1, 2018. Last year, the cougar harvest did not exceed the guideline and the units remained open throughout the season. A 2018 cougar tag is required to hunt cougars in April 2018.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

One mountain goat special permit is available in the Boulder River North goat hunt area, which is located within the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. Terrain in this unit is steep and rugged. Prospective hunters should contact the trail and recreation specialist at the Darrington Ranger District office at (360) 436-1155 to obtain the most current information regarding trail conditions and access routes. We recommend consulting with the U.S. Forest Service staff prior to applying for this hunt. All goats harvested by WDFW permit holders in the three years the unit has been open have been successful and all three animals were billies.

Permit holders may legally take a nanny goat, but mountain goat populations are very sensitive to the removal of adult females. Therefore, we ask that hunters refrain from shooting nannies. Permit holders will receive materials that describe ways to tell the difference between male and female goats and we ask that these materials be reviewed prior to scouting and hunting and serious efforts be made to harvest a male goat. Several excellent guides to distinguish between the sexes are available online, including this one from Montana:

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/planahunt/huntingGuides/msg/mountainGoatGuideBrochure.html>.

Permittees may receive a request to assist WDFW with additional biological sampling, in which case directions and any sampling kits will be provided through the mail. Successful hunters must present the head with horns attached for inspection within 10 days to a WDFW Regional or District office, or a location designated by a department representative. Contact information for WDFW Regional offices may be found on page 3 of the 2017 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations and on the [WDFW website](#). Hunters should be prepared to provide their Wild ID number and location and date of kill at the time of inspection. After inspection, the head/horns of a lawfully harvested mountain goat in Washington may be kept for personal use.



Mountain goats in the Boulder River North goat hunt unit

PHEASANT

Game farm produced pheasants will be released this fall on release sites, which are mapped on the [GoHunt](#) website and in the [Western Washington Pheasant Program booklet](#). Release days and the number of birds released at each site will also be posted in the booklet.

In Snohomish County, public pheasant and waterfowl hunting is available on the Ebey Island and Crescent Lake units of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. There are two access sites on the east side of the Ebey Island Unit. The first access site is under State Highway 2 on the northeast side of the property. The second access site is off of Home Acres Road just off of Highway 2. Access will be open on the west side of the property in the WDFW parking lot near the intersection of Home Acres Road and 43rd Street SE. Pheasants will be released on both the west and east parcels of the unit. The Crescent Lake Unit has two parking areas along Crescent Lake Road that provide access to this unit. The Ebey Island and Crescent Lake units will each receive 35-45 birds. They will be released on Friday and Saturday evenings, and on a varied schedule for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. All pheasant release sites on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area will be open and follow the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. hunting hours.

The Leque Island on the Skagit Wildlife Area will be closed to pheasant hunting this year due to the first phase of construction for the Leque Island Tidal Restoration Project.



Parking and pheasant release areas available at Ebey Island

In Island County, pheasant release sites on Whidbey Island include Bayview, Outlying Field (OLF) Coupeville, and Sea Plane Base (SPB) sites. Additional sites may be added on the north end of the island if sufficient cover exists and private landowner agreements can be negotiated. Hunters should check [online](#) for the location of specific sites. Fifteen to 20 birds will be released on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday mornings, except for Bayview, where releases will be Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The SPB (Upper and Lower Game Ranges) and OLF Coupeville on the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station will be open this year. Access to the SPB pheasant release site is open to all hunters. All hunters (military and civilian) need to purchase the installation hunting permit (\$13). This is the required authorization for access and to carry a firearm. Check in is done at the Torpedo Road gate by signing in and out of the logbook for the Seaplane Base and at the logbook in the parking lot for OLF Coupeville. Civilian hunters will be required to submit to a background check prior to hunting Navy property. As a result, hunts should be planned well in advance and all hunters are advised to check with WNAS Biologist Michael Bianchi at (360) 257-4024 for updated rules and requirements.

BAND-TAILED PIGEON

Band-tailed pigeons may be hunted in late September. A migratory bird authorization card is required and the daily bag limit is two birds. The birds can be found in managed forest lands with mixed conifer age classes that provide feeding areas adjacent to roosting areas. These types of habitat are often found on private timber lands or DNR lands, so expect the same gated conditions described above. Band-tailed pigeons have strong affinities for the same areas, so scouting before your hunt is important.

GROUSE

Ruffed grouse is the common species in District 13, with blue grouse found at higher elevations. Ruffed grouse are typically found at elevations below 2,500 feet. Both species favor mixed timber habitats, often near water. Hunters should look for mixed conifer and hardwood areas, especially in riparian areas, for the most likely place to find grouse. Abandoned or low use logging roads are good places to look for grouse as well.

WATERFOWL

For an excellent introduction to waterfowl hunting, see [Let's Go Waterfowl Hunting](#).

Strong spring and summer reproduction numbers in British Columbia and Washington suggest a strong 2017-18 season for numbers of birds potentially in the region. As always, weather conditions will influence where birds congregate.

Waterfowl hunting in District 13 is expected to be productive as long as weather conditions are favorable. The weather outlook for the coming fall and winter is for warmer and drier than normal conditions early in the season. Typically, we see a slow start to the hunting season. During mild winters, ducks tend to stay in more northerly areas of British Columbia. However, as colder fronts move in and conditions become colder and wetter, hunters can expect increasing numbers of waterfowl to arrive in District 13.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Public waterfowl hunting is available on the Ebey Island and Crescent Lake units of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. There are two access sites on the east side of the Ebey Island Unit. The first access site is under State Highway 2 on the northeast side of the property. The second access site is off of Home Acres Road near Highway 2. Access will be open on the west side of the property in the WDFW parking lot near the intersection of Home Acres Road and 43rd Street SE. During pheasant hunting season, waterfowl hunters may only enter and hunt the Ebey Island Unit from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Crescent Lake Unit has two parking areas along Crescent Lake Road that provide access to this unit.

The Spencer Island Unit of the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area will provide boat access and walk-in this year. Parking for the Spencer Island Unit will be a quarter mile back from the bridge to the island near the sewage treatment facility buildings.

We expect to have the Leque Island Unit of the Skagit Wildlife Area open for waterfowl hunting if construction for the Leque Island Tidal Restoration Project has been completed. Hunters should check with Skagit Wildlife Area staff members prior to the opening of waterfowl season to confirm the site is open at http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/skagit/ or (360) 445-4441.

At this time, we have tentative agreements with landowners for nine waterfowl quality hunt units, located primarily in the Stillaguamish Delta, and six snow goose units in the same general area in the coming season. These sites are all located on private lands enrolled in the Private Lands Access Program. Three waterfowl quality hunt units will be Hunt by Reservation and two of these units have been planted with barley. Additional units may be added in the fall. More information about individual sites as they are finalized, including maps and access rules, can be found at the [WDFW Hunting Access website](#). Waterfowl hunt units on private lands will open as crop harvests are completed and other conditions are met, so not every unit will be available on opening day. We anticipate that all units will be open by mid-November. Questions regarding our Private Lands Access Program (PLAP) should be addressed to Rob Wingard, WDFW PLAP biologist, at (360) 466-4345, extension 246.



The Hunt by Reservation program offers a quality hunt experience by limiting the number of days a site is hunted while guaranteeing the site will be available to the reservation holder. To make a reservation, visit the [WDFW hunting access link](#), create an account, choose a hunting site that is in the Hunt by Reservation category, and book the reservation. Reservations become available two weeks prior to the hunt day at 8:00 a.m. sharp. A fast internet connection improves chances of securing a reservation.

Reports from Wrangal Island, where lesser snow geese breed, indicate high numbers of chicks hatched and survived to fledging. Therefore, we are expecting robust numbers of geese coming into Washington. In addition to the traditional high concentrations in the Stanwood area, snow geese are expanding in Snohomish County and it is likely that at least 5,000-10,000 birds will spend some time in the Snohomish River system.

The Port Susan Game Reserve, which restricted Canada goose hunting, was eliminated in 2016.

PORT SUSAN BAY

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) allows hunting over a majority of tidelands under their ownership at Port Susan Bay. However, the restored area, which used to be diked, and a 150-yard buffer around it is off limits to hunting, and there is no hunting access from TNC property (see map below). For further information regarding hunting TNC ownership, contact the TNC Puget Sound Stewardship Coordinator at (360) 419-3140 or washington@tnc.org.



Map of restricted hunting area owned by The Nature Conservancy

WHIDBEY ISLAND

Access to public lands on Whidbey Island is extremely limited. Hunters should be aware that Deer Lagoon is closed to hunting by a County Ordinance that restricts the discharge of firearms. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust owns parcels at Crocket Lake and Dugualla Bay, and their ownerships are closed to hunting. Land Trust Dugualla Bay parcels are shown here. Hunters should contact the [Whidbey Camano Land Trust](#) with any questions regarding boundaries and ownership at Crockett Lake.



Whidbey Camano Land Trust parcels (in blue and green) at Dugualla Bay

Waterfowl hunting on Naval Air Station Whidbey Island is open to military personnel and their guests. All hunters (military and civilian) need to purchase the installation hunting permit (\$13). This is the required authorization for access and to carry a firearm. Duck blinds are accessed by entering the SPB gate and non-military guests must be in the same vehicle as the military hunter. For additional information, contact WNAS Biologist Michael Bianchi at (360) 257-4024.

CAMANO ISLAND

Iverson Spit Preserve is managed by Island County Parks, within the Island County Public Works Department. Hunting is allowed at Iverson Spit outside of the dike in the intertidal area.

Questions regarding the preserve should be directed to the Island County Public Works Department at (360) 679-7331.



Iverson Spit Preserve park boundaries

The tidelands near English Boom County Park on the north end of Camano Island include some privately owned parcels. Hunters wanting to access tidelands in this area must obey all signs indicating private ownership, no trespassing, or no hunting. These signs are legitimate and legal and attempt to indicate which parcels are privately owned and therefore not open to the public.